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music. The recordings themselves are generally clean, bright, and light, and the tape processing is first-rate. But, over-all, the effect is numbing—a consequence possibly desirable in jet air travel but scarcely so in home listening. (Apparently there are other Astrovision pop programs coming along: the slow-speed reels W 9 and W 10 representing Mercury/Philips/Smash and Twentieth Century-Fox respectively.

"Heritage." Robert De Cormier Folk Singers. Command C 884, 34 min., $7.95.

Although this program of "American Ballads and Songs, 1750–1840" is considerably more ambitious than that of the De Cormier group's first tape release (June 1964), it confirms my favorable earlier impressions of the ensemble's rhythmic precision and clarity of enunciation—even if, in the present case, the latter doesn't entirely justify the lack of a text leaflet, especially for the three William Billings classics: the relatively familiar *Chester*, poignant *David's Lamentation Assurance*, and amusing *Modern Music*. The date limitations haven't prevented the inclusion of Oscar Brand's fine *When I First Came to This Land* and perhaps some other ringers. (I'm inclined to doubt the historical authenticity of *Betty Saro*). But besides the Billings items and the inevitable *Yankee Doodle*, there are such appropriate others as *Mad Anthony Wayne, The White Horses, Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier, In the Good Old Colony Days*, etc.—all of which are simply yet imaginatively arranged as well as excellently performed, often in markedly antiphonal style, by a double chorus with light (and sometimes no) instrumental accompaniment.

"Jug Band Music." Jim Kweskin and the Jug Band. Vanguard VTC 1702, 43 min., $7.95.

It's been a good many years since I've heard any authentic documentations of old-time jug bands from the back country, and in any case I don't pretend to any expertise on the subject. Moreover, I hesitate to quarrel with the Newport Festival and other audiences which have acclaimed the Kweskin Band in live performances. Just the same, my ears tell me that what I hear here is a pale and thin imitation of the distinctive sonics of which a true jug band is capable.

"Flora, the Red Menace." Original Broadway Cast Recording. Hal Hastings, cond. RCA Victor FTO 5036, 47 min., $8.95.

"Half a Sixpence." Original Broadway Cast Recording. Stanley Lebowsky, cond. RCA Victor FTO 5035, 38 min., $8.95.

The prime attractions of these reels are their brand-new stars, Liza Minnelli, daughter of Judy Garland but with a personality all her own, and Tommy Steele, British onetime rock 'n' roller reformed into a highly versatile and engaging song-and-dance man. *Flora* is rather lightweight, but if you're in the mood for a disarming combination of mild nostalgia and mild comedy you'll probably relish, in addition to Miss Minnelli's contributions, the amusing evocations of the Thirties by Mary Louise Wilson (in *The Flame* and *Knock*,

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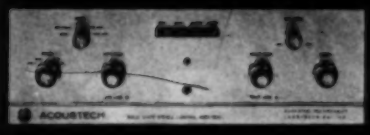

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